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Executive Registry

69-4289

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21 August 1969

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: US Attache Incident in Yugoslavia

25X1 DIA

1. Two Yugoslav civilians stopped US Attaches [redacted] on 29 July on a unrestricted secondary road near Tuzla, Bosnia. According to the attache's account, they were looking for a southern route to observe the Tuzla military airfield. When the civilians, including a deputy to the Bosnian parliament, made an effort to intrude into the attache's vehicle the attaches departed abruptly, reportedly injuring one of the civilians in the process. Eventually the attaches stumbled onto the airfield coming within 200 yards of a taxiway where they were stopped by the Yugoslav military.

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2. Initially both sides exchanged informal protests without any apparent wish to magnify the incident. On 13 August Assistant Foreign Secretary Uvalic requested that the US "voluntarily and quietly" withdraw [redacted] and prepare a formal explanation of US policy on military attache activity in Yugoslavia. The US has agreed to remove [redacted] and the other request is "under study." The change in the Yugoslav attitude toward the incident may have been prompted by a desire to bolster its policy of "all-people's defense." This policy involves virtually all of the civilian population in the defense of Yugoslavia and was implemented after the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

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3. The value of intelligence reporting from US attache road trips is minimal. Yugoslav military hardware is not likely to contain many surprises. The

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DIA review(s) completed.

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attaches did provide useful order of battle information, especially in the Yugoslav border areas, following the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

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The Yugoslavs have been disturbed for some time over the aggressive actions of US attaches.

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